

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

The Lodge,
Woodhill Road,
Portishead.

31st August „1950.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portishead Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the past year.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population	4,440
Area	911 acres
Production of Penny Rate	£136. 18s. -d.

2. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	<u>Portishead.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000	19.3	16.7
Death Rate " "	13.06	11.7
Maternal Deaths	-	
Infants under 1 year	1	
Still Births	2	

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles	25
Whooping Cough	17
Pneumonia	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Chicken Pox	2
Varicellos Meningitis	1
Tuberculosis Respiratory	5
do. non-Respiratory	Nil

4. EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

An expectant mother may attend her family Doctor in which case the latter is responsible for pre natal care and attends the birth of the child. Alternatively the expectant mother may call in the District Nurse who may take over the entire management of the case only calling in a Doctor in cases of any difficulty. Young children may attend their family Doctor or the Infant Welfare Centre.

5. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

This is as formerly - e.g. District Nurses of which there are two in Portishead District. This service is thoroughly good.

6. DOMESTIC HELPS.

These are supplied by application to the District Organiser or to a Doctor.

7. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

These are performed by the family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Centre if so desired.

8. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

There are two ambulances stationed at Portishead on call day and night. As always this service is first class.

9. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases have been dealt with during the year.

10. WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. H. R. H. White, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Engineer and Surveyor to the Council for this section of my report.

The District is supplied by Water Mains and services of the Portishead District Water Company and 98% of the dwellings and premises in the District are supplied by the Company's water including the Portishead Electricity Generating Station and the industrial undertakings.

The Council's new housing site on the West Hill is fully supplied but it is pointed out that a new scheme to supply the land on the Down Road and also Redcliffe Bay area in the Long Ashton Rural District is badly needed when the present supply of water to the new housing site can be looked upon as safe and the supply adequate. At the present time if the electric pump which boosts the water to the high level of the housing site fails there is no stand by and the failure may and most likely would leave fully 150 houses without a supply. The Water Main terminates at the end of the built up area on Down Road at "Four Winds" and agricultural land and future housing sites need supplies which will come about by the Redcliffe Bay supply which is by locked up taps and supply from them the inhabitants having to carry their water from these taps to their houses. When this is done the supply in the district will be adequate for all purposes and furthermore a circulating Water Main service will be supplied which is much better than "dead end" pipes. I hope that the Council will keep this matter before them as the present housing estates carries over 100 new houses in June, 1950 and the Estate will ultimately have about 200 houses on it.

With regard to the quality of the water, I give below a copy of the Chemical Analysis taken by me and reported upon by the County Analyst of the Somerset County Council:-

"5th August, 1949.

REPORT ON THE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SAMPLE OF WATER FROM
PORTISHEAD AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY PUMPING STATION, BRISTOL
ROAD, PORTISHEAD, RECEIVED FROM MR. H. R. H. WHITE, 26th JULY, 1949.

No. of sample. C147.

Physical Examination Date of Taking Sample. 26.7.49.

Colour	Normal
Appearance	Clear
Taste	Normal
Smell	Nil

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction pH	7.1
	<u>Parts per million</u>
Free carbon dioxide as Co ₂	35.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.	0.004
Albuminoid " as N.	0.02
Nitrous " as N.	Nil.
Nitric " as N.	2.0

WATER SUPPLY (contd).Hardness (Titration with potassium sterate solution) as CaCo₃. Parts per million.

Temporary	280
Permanent	620
Permanganate figure (4 hrs, 80°F) as O.	0.2
Alkalinity, as CaCo ₃ .	310.
Total Solids	1560.

Mineral Analysis.

Calcium, as Ca.	336.
Magnesium, as Mg.	Nil.
Sodium, as Na.	159.
Carbonate, as Co ₃ .	186.
Chloride, as Cl.	134.
Sulphate, as So ₄ .	630.
Nitrate, as No ₃ .	9.
Silicates, as SiO ₂ .	8.
Iron, Lead, Copper, Zinc.	nil.

(Signed) Edward T. Illing,
County Public Analyst.

The same contains practically no organic impurity but it is an extremely hard water, the hardness being mainly "permanent".

The probable combination of the ions is as follows:-

Calcium Carbonate	31 parts per 100'000
Calcium Sulphate	72 parts per 100'000
Sodium Sulphate	18 parts per 100'000
Silicic SiO ₂	1 part per 100'000 "

Three Bacteriological Analyses were also made by the County Analyst during the year, two being direct from the mains and they were satisfactory.

It is therefore general that the biggest complaint we have in the District is the very large degree of permanent hardness contained in the water and this chiefly from the soap consumption problem and also from the difficulties that arise in the housing hot water systems caused by corrosion and expense to householders, house owners and industrial undertakings and some endeavour should be made by the Water Company to reduce this existing hardness at once.

There has been too much talk and too little action in this matter. The Water Company must be pressed for a safe supply of water to the South West portion of the District on the West Hill and Down Road area and for the extension of the main to the District boundary in conjunction with the Redcliffe Bay supply.

The Water Company have supplied new cast iron mains to the new Housing Site, but I must call attention to the very bad state of some of their mains which cause excessive openings of roads and damage thereto which needs not temporary repairs but renewals of the mains and their fittings.

11. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Engineer and Surveyor supplies the following information:-

This District was supplied with a new Sewerage Scheme in 1895 with low level sewage raised by compressors and ejectors to the Slade Road via Stoke Road to meet the high level sewers which flow by gravity to the 15 inch sewer outfall discharging into the mouth of the Severn (Bristol Channel) in Kilkenny Bay. For information, I give Ordnance Datum levels of the District:-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (contd).

1. High Street South end Junction Bristol Road roundabout	22 feet	S
2. Junction High Street & Nore Road at Council Offices	28 "	Central
3. Slade Road, Battery Road & Nore Road Junction	60 "	"
4. Junction Newlands Hill & Slade Road	57 "	S
5. Junction West Hill and Nore Road	126 "	N.W.
6. Junction West Hill & Lower Down Road & Down Road	328 "	S.W.
7. Down Road next "Four Winds" (Water Tank)	354 "	S.W.
8. Wireless Station entrance Down Road	360 "	S.W.
9. Nore Road at end of built up area "Severn Bank"	141 "	N.W.
10. Nore Road at Nautical School	114 "	N.W.
11. Bristol Road at Glebe Villas	22 "	S.E.
12. The Esplanade at Putting Green	32 "	N.
13. Woodhill Road junction of the Esplanade	134 "	N.

The letters are orientation positions with the Council Offices at base and shows the rising land and general formations. From this it can be seen that rising main pumping from the low land at the East, and High Street is absolutely necessary.

The Sewerage System was designed to serve a population of about 4,000 and at a time when the district was not contemplating the advent of a large Electrical Generating Station and other industries.

The provision of a sewer to serve the West end of Nore Road area from "Fern Cottage" (Mr. A. Ashford), to the district boundary is badly needed which will then supply the Ashdown, Nicholls and Belton Road areas and do away with the present cesspool arrangements.

An extension of the Down Road sewer will automatically take place on the development of this end of the township viz. the South West end.

The existing plan of sewers is being brought up to date and will include all sewers whether foul or surface water and Messrs. Ross, Hooper & Harvey are doing the work and submitting a report on the existing sewers and also a report on the future development thereof and including Redcliffe Bay in the Long Ashton Rural District, who can make arrangements as to the ~~use~~ rise of our sewers on payment to the Council for such use.

Redcliffe Bay has no sewers whatsoever and the provision of sewers is imperative in my opinion for us and them, to abolish cesspools.

This sewer extension and general enlargements are going to bring a large expenditure on the Council in the very near future.

The development of the low lying area is needing careful engineering thought as otherwise the land will not be of any use for housing land, which is badly needed in the District.

The Report is expected in August, 1950.

12. FOOD.

Meat:- As animals are slaughtered at Weston-Super-Mare, the question of inspection of carcasses does not arise. Butchers shops are inspected at Portishead and are seen to be maintained in a cleanly and proper manner. The manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream are closely supervised and seen to be carried out according to Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment Etc) Regulations 1947 & 1948. There has not been any case of Food Poisoning.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D. W. BRUCE.
Medical Officer of Health.